

REMARKS

Claims 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the title and claim 18 are amended and claims 15, 16 and 19 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Also, non-elected claims 1-12 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants graciously acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that the claims 13, 14, 17 and 20-22 are allowed and that claim 18 contains allowable subject matter. The Office Action objects to claim 18 because it depends from a rejected base claim. To obviate this objection, claim 18 is amended to be in independent form and to recite all the features of canceled claim 15. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 18 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.S. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hiesla (U.S. patent No. 6,977,108). The rejection is moot because claim 15 is canceled by this amendment, so as to place this application in condition for Allowance.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 18 contains patentable subject matter. Claims 13, 14, 17, 20-22 are allowed. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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